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NEWS RELEASE

NEW LAWS IMPACT THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION IN 2015

(Sacramento, CA) – Several laws take effect January 1, 2015 which impact the accounting profession in California. Among the changes:

SB 1467

Academia: SB 1467 authorizes the CBA, by regulation, to allow experience in academia to qualify as general accounting experience for the one-year general accounting experience requirement necessary for CPA licensure.

E-mail: SB 1467 authorizes the CBA to collect, but not require, a valid electronic mail address at the time of application for, or renewal of, a certified public accountant license. By law, these electronic mail addresses shall not be considered public records and the new law would prohibit these electronic mail addresses from being disclosed pursuant to specified provisions of law, unless required pursuant to a court order.

Mobility (Practice Privilege): SB 1467 requires that an individual who holds and is exercising a practice privilege in California must notify the CBA of any pending criminal charges other than a minor traffic violation, in any jurisdiction, in writing within 30 days of the date the individual has knowledge of those charges.

Other laws for 2015 include:

AB 1702

Prohibits a delay in processing of an application or a denial of a license of an individual who has satisfied any of the requirements needed to obtain a license while incarcerated, who applies for that license upon release from incarceration, and who is otherwise eligible for the license on the sole basis that some or all of the licensure requirements were completed while the individual was incarcerated.

AB 2720

Requires the CBA and other boards, under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, to

publicly report any action taken as well as the vote or abstention on that action by each member present for the action at a board meeting.

AB 2396

Prohibits a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs from denying a license based solely on a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to certain penal code provisions. The bill would require an applicant who has a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to those provisions to provide proof of the dismissal.

For more information on the new laws, please visit the CBA website, www.cba.ca.gov.

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Created by statute in 1901, the CBA's mandate requires that protection of the public shall be its highest priority in exercising licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. The CBA currently regulates more than 87,000 licensees, the largest group of licensed accounting professionals in the nation, including individuals, partnerships, and corporations.

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